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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany
SUBJECT New-Type Tanks at Krampnitz

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1. After 26 January 1955, up to 12 tanks of the new type were seen together with T-34/85 tanks at field training in the training area northwest of the Kavallerie Schule (2161) in Krampnitz.

Description of the Tank:

- a. Chassis: 5 bogie-wheels, drive sprocket and guide roller; similar to T-34 chassis. The distance from the first bogie wheel to the other four was, however, considerably larger but the bogie wheels appeared to be fitted more closely to each other.
- b. Hull: The hull between chassis and turret was 20 cm lower than the T-34 hull, which affected the total height correspondingly.
- c. Turret: The semi-circular turret was fitted in the center of the tank and was provided with two cupolas, fitted one behind the other. During practice driving, a submachine gun was mounted at the edge of the forward cupola; the cupola to the rear was closed. A small vertical slit, probably a vision slit, was seen in the forward section of the left side of the turret.
- d. Gun tube: The tube had a length of at least 4.50 meters, a caliber of about 100 mm and no muzzle brake. The tube had a square projection at the turret similar to the T-34 tank with a 76-mm gun.
- e. Driver's hatch: No hatch was seen in the front plate of the tank; the driver's hatch was immediately left of the turret and could be closed by a round plate.
- f. Capacity: The new-type tank had more speed than the T-34/85. On sandy ground, the speed was estimated at 45 km/h.
- g. Noise of motor: The noise of the engine was lower and muffled compared to that of the other tanks.
- h. Length and width of the tank were about the same as that of the T-34. The tracks were no different from the T-34.

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2. On 3 and 4 February 1955, five tanks of the new type were seen at driving practice in the training area of Krazpnitz.

Description:

- a. General impression: Steel parts were highly improved (even areas) compared to the T-34.
- b. Engine: The engine ~~made~~ a singing noise and is lower than that of the T-34.
- c. Measurements: The tank had a total height of 2.50 to 2.70 meters, measured from the ground to the highest point of the turret.
- d. Chassis: The tank had five bogie wheels without track support rollers, 1 toothed drive sprocket and 1 idler sprocket. The two sprockets were suspended somewhat higher than those on the T-34.
- e. Hull: The hull ~~was~~ somewhat higher than that of the T-34; the ground clearance was about 70 cm. A square-edged sloping front plate ~~extended up~~ to the turret. The driver's hatch ~~was~~ in the center.
- f. Turret: The semi-circular turret ~~was~~ very flat, about 80 to 90 cm high, and flush with the side walls of the hull. The rotating periscope (Drehschlitz ?) ~~was~~ about 1 cm wide. Several iron handles of various size were fitted at the sides of the turret. The turret hatch ~~was~~ hinged to the rear. A small vision slit is on the right side above the gun on the front side of the turret.
- g. Gun: about 85 mm caliber, with a barrel of about 4.5 meters; no muzzle brake; the muzzle ~~was~~ reinforced by a ring about 1 1/2 cm thick. The mantlet ~~was~~ covered by a leather cover.
- h. Contrary to the T-34 tank, the exhaust ~~could not be seen~~. No fuel containers or tanks were seen on the side walls of the hull.

Comment.

The differences in the description of the location of the vision slit presumably resulted from the fact that the terms "right and left" were used in an opposite sense by the two reporting sources. The one related his data to the moving tank, the other to a position in front of the tank. Available information so far indicates that the driver's hatch is immediately left in front of the turret (seen from a moving tank). The ground clearance of the new type tank (T-54 ?) has so far been reported to be 40 cm. it is not more than 50 cm.

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